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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/618,966

07/14/2003

Andrew Harvey Barr

200205324

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7590

09/21/2004

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY

Intellectual Property Administration

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EXAMINER

VU, PHUONG T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 09/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/618,966

Applicant(s)

BARR ET AL.

Examiner

Phuong T. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 29 June 2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite as it is unclear which card guide is being referred to in claim 33.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 30-32, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Murphy (US 4,979,075). Regarding claim 30, the reference discloses an electronic system comprising a first card guide 82, a second card guide 90 opposing the first card guide, a short card 206 inserted into the electronic system, the short card having a card guide edge coupled to the first card guide and a first edge (leftmost vertical edge of short card, see figure 9) not coupled a card guide in the electronic system, and a support 201 spanning from the first edge of the short card to the second card guide of the electronic system.

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Regarding claim 31, the support is a short card support.

Regarding claim 32, the short card support is an adjustable short card support.

Regarding claim 37, the electronic system is a computer system.

5. Claims 30-31, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reynolds et al. (US 3,733,523). Regarding claim 30, the reference discloses an electronic system comprising a first card guide 70, a second card guide 71 opposing the first card guide, a short card 63 inserted into the electronic system, the short card having a card guide edge coupled to the first card guide and a first edge (front vertical edge of short card) not coupled a card guide in the electronic system, and a support 20 spanning from the first edge of the short card to the second card guide of the electronic system.

Regarding claim 31, the support is a short card support.

Regarding claim 37, the electronic system is a computer system.

6. Claims 26-34, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Carney et al. (US 5,706,173). Regarding claim 26, the reference discloses a method of supporting a short printed circuit board 34 having a first edge (adjacent wall 24), a second edge (adjacent 61), the short printed circuit board insertable into an electronic system 21 having guides (first card guide provided with cover 32, second card guide 31 - including its surrounding housing) the method comprising coupling the first edge of the short printed circuit card to a first card guide of the electronic system and supporting the second edge of the short printed circuit card with a short card support 36 comprising a card receptor end 66 removably attached to the second edge of the short printed circuit

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card, a card guide end 41 adapted to removably couple to a second card guide 31 of the electronic system and a support span comprising 38, 39 connecting the card receptor end and the card guide end.

Regarding claim 27, wherein the short printed circuit card includes a connector edge insertable into a connector plane provided in 31 of the electronic system.

Regarding claim 28, the method further comprises electrically and mechanically coupling the connector edge of the short printed circuit card to the connector plane of the electronic system.

Regarding claim 29, wherein the method include adjusting a span length of the support span to bridge the distance between the card guide end coupled to the second card guide and the card receptor end removably attached to the second edge of the short printed circuit card.

Regarding claim 30, the reference discloses an electronic system comprising a first card guide 32, a second card guide 31 opposing the first card guide, a short card 34 inserted into the electronic system, the short card having a card guide edge coupled to the first card guide and a first edge (leftmost short edge of short card adjacent 61, see figure 2) not coupled a card guide in the electronic system, and a support 36 with components 41, 38, 39, and 61 spanning from the first edge of the short card to the second card guide of the electronic system.

Regarding claim 31, the support is a short card support.

Regarding claim 32, the short card support is an adjustable short card support.

Regarding claim 33, the short card support includes a card guide end 41 adapted to couple to the second card guide of the electronic system, a card receptor end 61 adapted to couple with the first edge of the short card, and a support span 38, 39 connecting the card guide end and the card receptor end.

Regarding claim 34, it appears that the card receptor end is to an extent width adjustable and would accommodate varying thickness short cards with slight thickness variations.

Regarding claim 37, the electronic system is a computer system.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Carney et al. (US 5,706,173).

Regarding claim 35, it appears from the drawings that the adjustable span length is selectively adjustable in a range from approximately 10% to 90% of a length of a card bay of the electronic system.

Furthermore regarding claim 35 it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the

optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

Regarding claim 36, it appears that the adjustable span length is selectively adjustable in a range from approximately 2-6 inches.

Furthermore regarding claim 36, it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, it is not inventive to discover the optimum or workable ranges by routine experimentation. *In re Aller*, 220 F.2d 454, 105 USPQ 233, 235 (CCPA 1955).

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claims 1-25 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered. Applicant's claim amendments have been successful in overcoming the previous 35 U.S.C 112 claim rejections. Applicant's claim amendments have been successful in overcoming the art rejections of claims 1-25. Therefore the rejections of claims 1-25 have all been withdrawn. Regarding the art rejection of claims 26-29, the previous rejection of these claims under Carney had mistakenly identified some of the reference numerals incorrectly. A rejection of these claims, which clarifies the prior rejection based on Carney has been made above. The previous art rejections of claims 30-37 has been overcome with Applicant's submission of the amendments to these claims. However, new rejections have been made. Applicant's arguments regarding these claims are moot in view of the new grounds for rejection.

Finally, the new information disclosure statement with the correctly identified Clarke patent has been considered.

Conclusion

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-2111. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. & Tues., 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David S. Martin can be reached on (571) 272-2107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

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information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

PTVu
Patent Examiner
9/15/04

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PTVu', is written over the printed name of the Patent Examiner.